



*Remembering the Emanuel 9
and the Survivors*



SOUTH CAROLINA

AFRICAN AMERICAN

2017

HISTORY CALENDAR

DEAR STUDENTS, EDUCATORS & FRIENDS,

This edition of *The South Carolina African-American History Calendar* is different from any of its 27 predecessors. Rather than telling the stories of individuals who have impacted our state in separate ways, the 2017 edition highlights 14 people forever bound together by a single, horrific event.

On June 17, 2015, a quiet Bible study at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston was shattered by gunfire that claimed the lives of nine men and women. Five others survived. It was a heinous, hate-filled attack that shook the entire state and challenged all of us to seriously examine the question of what it means to be South Carolinians today. But from this act came examples of grace, mercy, dignity and leadership which won the nation's admiration and began to bring us together in new, long-overdue ways.

In the following pages, you will find individual profiles of those who lost their lives or survived the tragedy that day. The articles for the other months highlight Mother Emanuel Church and how our state responded to the tragedy.

The sweetgrass roses on the cover have become one of the many symbols of the lives lost in the tragedy. The roses, made in Charleston by skilled craftsmen and women for at least 150 years, were left as memorials at the church and can be seen in photos and images at the church today.

Like its predecessors, the 2017 African American History Calendar is intended as an educational resource. It serves as a tool to assist the State Department of Education in meeting the statutory requirement to include African American history in the curriculum.

AT&T and our community partners are privileged to honor these men and women and to help preserve their memories and stories for future generations. It is our hope that this project will further the spirit of reconciliation and inclusion which was unintentionally sparked by one despicable act.

Thank you for all you do to help make South Carolina a place which we are, and our descendants will be, pleased to call home.

Pamela Lackey



President, AT&T South Carolina



College of Charleston (Research; Digital Collections)

The Avery Research Center: Preserving African American Culture and History
<http://avery.cofc.edu/>

Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor

Remembering the History of the Gullah Geechee Culture
<http://www.gullahgeecheecorridor.org>

International African American Museum

A new museum of African American history and identity scheduled to open in Charleston, SC during 2019
<http://iaamuseum.org/>

Library of Congress

Civil Rights Resources for Teachers
http://memory.loc.gov/learn/community/cc_civilrights.php

Library of Congress

Manuscripts on African American History and Culture
www.loc.gov/rr/mss/guide/african.html

National Humanities Center

A Toolbox with Resources in U.S. History & Literature and TeacherServe
<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/tblibrary.htm>

National Museum of African American History & Culture

100 Years in the Making: African American History is Our History
<http://nmaahc.si.edu/>

Penn Center (Resources for Researchers)

A South Carolina Historical Legacy, An American Cultural Treasure
<http://penncenter.com/>

SC African American Heritage Commission

Promoting the preservation of African American culture in SC
<http://shpo.sc.gov/res/Pages/SCAAHC.aspx>

SC Department of Archives & History

A Teacher's Guide to African American Historic Places in SC
<http://scdah.sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Scholastic

A Guide to Famous African American Inventors
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory/inventors/>

South Carolina Department of Education

A recent history of African-Americans in South Carolina to complement the current SC Academic Standards
<http://ed.sc.gov/socialstudies>

South Carolina ETV

A Collection of African American History
<http://www.knowitall.org/collections/african-american-history>

University of South Carolina

The African American Studies Program
<http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/afra/>

University of South Carolina

Special Collections Libraries and Research Resources
<http://library.sc.edu/p/About>

A bibliography of print materials is available at:
SCAfricanAmerican.com

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REV. SHARONDA COLEMAN-SINGLETON

Pastor, Teacher and Coach

Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, an assistant pastor at Mother Emanuel AME Church, spent her life making a lasting difference in the lives of young people.

A native of Newark, NJ, where she graduated from Vailsburg High School in 1987, Coleman-Singleton enrolled at S.C. State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in speech pathology and audiology. Outside the classroom, she was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and an award-winning hurdler. She helped propel the SCSU track-and-field team to a conference championship. After completing her undergraduate studies, she went on to attend Montclair State University and obtained a master's degree in speech language and pathology.

Coleman-Singleton began her professional career as a speech and language pathologist in schools in Georgia, before moving to Goose Creek High School in 2008. Her sports background and love of young people quickly led her to also become the head coach of the girls' track-and-field team. Over the next seven years she gained a school-wide reputation for encouraging, mentoring and determinedly advocating for the young women she coached.

A faithful Christian, Coleman-Singleton was a lay minister at Mother Emanuel, working with the youth and young adult ministries.

But Coleman-Singleton's greatest pride was her family, especially her sons and daughter: Christopher, Caleb and Camryn Singleton. A doting mother, she was involved in their education and enjoyed cheering on the Gators at Goose Creek events, as well as for the Buccaneers of Charleston Southern University, where Christopher went on to play baseball.

Among the more than 2,000 mourners at her funeral were South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and Civil Rights leaders Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton.



SOUTH CAROLINA

AFRICAN AMERICAN

JANUARY

HISTORY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 1808 – Legislation passed declaring the transatlantic slave trade is no longer legal on North American soil 1863 – The 1st all-Black South Carolina Volunteer Regiment comprised of enslaved people was inducted into the United States Army	2	3	4	5 1954 – Hall of Famer and famous University of South Carolina basketball player, Alex English was born in Columbia, SC	6 1993 – John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie, famed musician, died.	7 1973 – Baltimore Ravens Wide Receivers Coach and past NFL player, Bobby Engram was born in Camden, SC
8 1971 – The Office for Minority Student Affairs at USC is officially organized to represent the needs of the University's African American students and protest discriminatory treatment of the University's minority population	9 1963 – In his final speech as Governor, Fritz Hollings states that "the day of segregation has passed"	10	11	12 1944 – Joseph "Smoking Joe" Frasier is born in Beaufort, SC. He would later become an Olympic gold medalist and heavy weight champion	13	14 1943– Harvey Gantt, the first African American admitted to Clemson University and the first black mayor of Charlotte, NC was born in Charleston, SC
15 1963 – Donald Russell is inaugurated as Governor of South Carolina and holds the first integrated inaugural reception in South Carolina's history	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY 1963 – The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals orders Clemson University to admit Harvey Gantt allowing him to become the first African American to enroll at Clemson University	17 2000– More than 46,000 protesters rally in a march on the state capitol at Columbia, SC to protest the Confederate battle flag flying atop the statehouse dome. NAACP chair Kweisi Mfume, the main speaker at the event, called it the greatest civil rights rally since the 1960s	18	19	20	21
22 1963 – Federal District Court Judge C.C. Wyche signs the order admitting Gantt to Clemson University	23	24	25	26	27	28 1963 – Accompanied by Matthew Perry, Harvey Gantt arrives at Clemson University and enrolls 1986 – Astronaut Ronald McNair died in Challenger explosion
29 1872 – African American clergyman and politician, Francis L. Cardozo is elected the State Treasurer of South Carolina	30	31				

CYNTHIA GRAHAM HURD

Librarian and Active Community Member

For over three decades, Cynthia Graham Hurd helped her community and neighbors connect with the resources and opportunity found at the public library. Children, especially, knew she was always ready to help them — whether they needed homework assistance or a new book “just right” for a beginning reader.

A Charleston native, Hurd attended James Simmons Elementary School and the High School of Charleston. Graduating from Clark Atlanta University in 1984, she returned home and launched a 31-year career with the Charleston County Public Library. After earning a master’s degree in library information sciences at the University of South Carolina, she became manager of the John L. Dart Library in 1990 in the Charleston neighborhood where she grew up. In 2011, Hurd was promoted to lead the St. Andrews Regional Library, one of the busiest branches in the county’s system.

Outside her professional work Hurd was active in her community, serving as a board member of the Charleston County Housing Authority for more than 20 years. She was also a board member of Septima P. Clark Corp., a nonprofit that gives small grants to resident programs for those in public housing. Hurd was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and spent time working part-time at the College of Charleston’s Addlestone Library. Additionally, she was a life-long member of Mother Emanuel AME Church, joining many members of her family in the congregation.

After her death, the College of Charleston renamed its Colonial Scholarship, a full academic scholarship for in-state students, the Cynthia Graham Hurd Memorial Scholarship. In addition, the Charleston County Public Library changed the name of the St. Andrews Library branch she managed to the Cynthia Graham Hurd St. Andrews Regional Library.



SOUTH CAROLINA

AFRICAN AMERICAN

FEBRUARY

HISTORY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1834 – Henry McNeal Turner is born in Hannah Circuit near Newberry, SC	2 GROUNDHOG DAY 1915 – Ernest E. Just, biologist, received the Spingarn Award for pioneering research on fertilization and cell division	3	4
5 1961 – The South Carolina Council on Human Relations Student Council hosts its first student workshop at Allen University	6 1870 – African American lawyer Jonathan Jasper Wright is elected to the South Carolina Supreme Court during Reconstruction	7 1967 – Actor, comedian, and author Chris Rock was born in Andrews, SC	8 1968 – Police officers opened fire during a demonstration on South Carolina State University's campus in Orangeburg, SC. This event known as the Orangeburg Massacre left 28 students injured and three dead	9	10 1960 – John McCray wrote to Mayor Lester Bates requesting improved bus facilities after a visit to the Greyhound station on Blanding Street in Columbia, SC	11
12 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY 1909 – Georgetown, SC native William A. Sinclair, who was born enslaved in 1858 and who later earned a theology degree from Howard University, helps create the NAACP	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 1874 – Charlotte Amanda Bass, the first African American woman to run for national office as a Vice Presidential candidate was born in Sumter, SC 1960 – Allen University & Benedict College students begin to hold rallies to protest school & community (de)segregation 1969 – Black Students at the University of South Carolina burned a Confederate flag between the Russell House patio and the main library	15	16 1955 – NAACP lawyers file the lawsuit, Fleming v South Carolina Electric & Gas in response to Sarah Mae Fleming being expelled from a bus	17	18 1961 – Arrest of student demonstrators forces the Greyhound bus terminal in Columbia to serve customers equally
19	20 PRESIDENTS' DAY WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY	21	22	23	24	25 1963 – Supreme court rules in Edwards v. SC that civil disobedience is declared a legal act performed by citizens of the state to express grievances
26	27	28 MARDI GRAS				

SUSIE J. JACKSON

Matriarch and Faithful Church Member

Susie J. Jackson, 87, lived a long life full of energy and love for her family and fellow church members.

A member of Emanuel AME Church for many years, Jackson was a fixture at Sunday services and Wednesday night Bible studies. She served as a trustee and as an usher. She sang in the adult choir for many years and later enjoyed being a member of the church's senior citizens group.

Jackson attended Buist Elementary School and Burke High School in Charleston. She was one of six sisters and four brothers and married to the late Walter Jackson. She and her husband raised their son, Walter, Jr., on Charleston's East Side, and she later raised a daughter, Annette Jackson. When Walter, Jr. moved out of the house, Jackson displayed her "good Samaritan" spirit and offered his room to two young people in her neighborhood who needed shelter.

Close friends and family recall that as an octogenarian Jackson was healthy, active and showed no signs of slowing down. She adored her three grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. She never missed a graduation because she was very passionate about education.

Jackson was very kind-hearted, often giving of her time and resources. Her home was warm, inviting and always a popular place to have good food, fellowship, and fun.

Two weeks before her death, Jackson took a trip to see a cousin's graduation and visit her son and grandchildren in Cleveland, Ohio. This trip was a little different because she decided to leave cards with her great grandchildren for their upcoming birthdays. She would normally have mailed them from her home in Charleston. It was as if she knew she would not see them again.

Jackson's legacy of love and service to others has touched many people who have come to appreciate her as a dedicated servant of God.



SOUTH CAROLINA

AFRICAN AMERICAN

MARCH

HISTORY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ASH WEDNESDAY	2 1960 — Allen University & Benedict College students conduct first sit-in in Columbia at Woolworth and S.H. Kress Department Stores	3	4
5 1960 — South Carolina Student Movement Association was formed by students from Allen University, Benedict College, Claflin University, and South Carolina State University	6	7 1960 — The South Carolina Council on Human Relations announced the group's support of the student-led sit-in movement	8	9	10 1960 — Charles Barr, Milton Green, Richard Counts, Johnny Clark, and one unidentified student shop at Taylor St. Pharmacy & are later arrested for criminal trespassing	11
12 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS 1974 — Booker T. Washington High School student body, alumni, and faculty were distraught over the decision to sell the school to the University of South Carolina without plans to relocate the historic African American landmark. Frankie B. Outten, representing the faculty, presented to Richland County School District One Board of Commissioners "A Testimonial to Booker T. Washington High School"	13 1968 — South Carolina State University students demonstrate at the South Carolina State House in response to the Orangeburg Massacre	14 1960 — Simon Bouie & Tallmadge Neal sat in a restaurant booth in Eckerd's Drug Store and waited for service. They were arrested for criminal trespassing & convicted	15 1960 — Members of the SC Student Movement Association held a protest in Columbia, SC designed to take place at the same time as one happening on the same day in Orangeburg, SC. Eleven students were arrested over the course of two days	16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18
19	20 SPRING BEGINS	21	22	23 1931 — Ernest A. Finney, Jr., the first African American Supreme Court Justice appointed to the South Carolina Supreme Court since the Reconstruction Era was born	24 1961 — In response to the Lennie Glover stabbing, African American students led a boycott of Main Street businesses in Columbia, SC. The "Easter Lennie Glover No Buying Campaign" featured daily picketing and sit-ins	25
26 1950 — Singer, Teddy Pendergrass was born in Kingstree, SC	27	28 1984 — Benjamin Elijah Mays, educator, social activist, mentor to Dr. King, and the president of Morehouse College died in Atlanta, GA	29	30	31	

ETHEL Lee LANCE

Matriarch and Church Caretaker

The life of Ethel Lee Lance, 70, epitomized loyalty, consistency and dedication to serving others. Born in Charleston where she and her husband Nathaniel Lance raised their family, Lance was a lifelong member of Emanuel AME Church. She took great pride in her beloved church, working as a custodian and helping keep its facilities clean for five years. Whether she was working, attending church services or studying her Bible, Lance was at Emanuel AME nearly seven days a week.

Lance was a hard worker, and in 1968 when Charleston's Gaillard Municipal Auditorium opened, she began working there as a custodian and worked there until she retired in 2002. She loved to take her family to see gospel performances at the auditorium when she had a night off. Two of Lance's daughters even had their wedding receptions at the Gaillard.

A matriarch by all accounts, she was devoted to her family's well-being. She led her family through despair when her husband died in 1988 and when her daughter, Terrie Washington, died in 2013. Brandon Risher, the oldest of Lance's grandchildren, remembers her as a symbol of love. Other grandchildren recall that she firmly encouraged them to succeed, and always served grits and bacon for breakfast. Lance's loving family includes five children, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She never had the opportunity to see her youngest great grandchild, Jonquil Lance, Jr., who was born just before the tragedy.

Her funeral at Royal Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston was attended by civil rights leaders such as the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rev. Al Sharpton, and by political leaders such as Gov. Nikki Haley, U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford and Charleston Mayor Joe Riley. The choir sang "One Day at a Time," Lance's favorite gospel song. Her daughter said the song gave her strength in difficult times.



SOUTH CAROLINA

AFRICAN AMERICAN

APRIL

HISTORY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY
2	3	4	5	6	7 WORLD HEALTH DAY	8
9 PALM SUNDAY	10 PASSOVER BEGINS	11 1877 – Reconstruction came to an end in South Carolina	12	13 THOMAS JEFFERSON'S BIRTHDAY	14 GOOD FRIDAY 1868 – SC voters approved constitution, 70,758 to 27,228, and elected state officers, including the first black cabinet officer, Francis L. Cardozo, secretary of state. New constitution required integrated education and contained a strong bill of rights section: "Distinctions on account of race or color, in any case whatever, shall be prohibited, and all classes of citizens shall enjoy equally all common, public, legal and political privileges."	15
16 EASTER	17 TAX DAY 1911 – Senator Isaiah DeQuincey Newman was born in Clyde Township, SC. Newman was the first African American to serve in the South Carolina Senate since Reconstruction 1968 – Malcolm X gave an address at the Mosque in Columbia, SC	18 PASSOVER ENDS 1963 – Brown vs. SC Forestry Commission case opens	19	20 2010 – Steve Benjamin wins election with 56% of the vote becoming Columbia's first African American mayor	21	22 EARTH DAY
23	24	25 1968 – Robert Kennedy spoke at the University of South Carolina about the national government's role in eliminating racial discrimination	26 1938 – Jasper Cureton, the first African American appellate judge in South Carolina since reconstruction was born in Walhalla, SC	27	28 ARBOR DAY	29
30						

Learn more about the people featured in this calendar at www.scafricanamerican.com.

REV. DEPAYNE VONTRESE MIDDLETON

Mother and Minister

Rev. DePayne Vontrese Middleton, 49, of Hollywood, South Carolina, was born into a family of faith and ministers. In addition to powerful oratory skills, she also had a talent for singing and shared this gift with many congregations and choirs in the Charleston area. When she decided to become a minister, she served at Mt. Mariah Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston before she ministered at Emanuel AME, which she joined in March of 2015.

The queen of her high school, Middleton earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Columbia College in 1989, and a master's degree in organizational management from Southern Wesleyan University in 1994.

In 2005, she retired as the Charleston County director of the Community Development Block Grant program. In 2015, she began working for Southern Wesleyan University, her alma mater, as admissions coordinator for the school's Charleston learning center. An experienced grant writer, she also worked for local and state agencies in various roles and as data manager/analyst for the Medical University of South Carolina. She twice managed the Charleston Census Bureau office.

She was the mother of four daughters: Gracyn, Kaylin, Hali and Czana. They were her life's priority, and she instilled in them a passion for education, adventure and individuality.

Middleton lived a life dedicated to her Christian faith and to helping others. A co-minister recalled that any time Middleton encountered someone asking for prayers, she would promptly stop and pray with them on the spot.

Gov. Nikki Haley, Charleston Mayor Joseph Riley and Civil Rights leader Jesse Jackson attended Middleton's funeral. The service concluded with clapping, praise and singing, the release of a flock of doves and the hymn, "When We All Get to Heaven."



SOUTH CAROLINA

AFRICAN AMERICAN

MAY

HISTORY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 2000 – South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges signs a bill to make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday an official state holiday. South Carolina is the last state to recognize the day as a holiday	3 1898 – Septima Poinsette Clark, commonly referred to as "The Mother of the Movement" was born in Charleston, SC 1933 – James Brown often referred to as "The Godfather of Soul" was born in Barnwell, SC	4	5 CINCO DE MAYO	6
7	8	9 1750 – The South Carolina Gazette reports that Caesar, a South Carolina slave has been granted his freedom and lifetime annuity in exchange for his cures for poison and rattlesnake bites 1862 – Slaves in Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina were freed	10	11	12 1862 – Robert Smalls seized Confederate warship	13 1862 – Enslaved ship pilot and future SC politician Robert Smalls liberates 16 slaves by piloting a stolen Confederate Ship called the Planter through enemy territory 1872 – Matilda Evans was born in Aiken, SC. Evans moved to Columbia, SC and began her own practice, becoming the first licensed African American female physician in the state
14 MOTHER'S DAY	15	16	17	18	19	20 ARMED FORCES DAY 1963 – Over 1,000 University of South Carolina students support an anti-integration rally in Columbia by marching to the State House
21	22	23	24	25	26 1956 – Althea Gibson won the French Open, becoming the first black tennis player to win a major tennis title	27
28	29 MEMORIAL DAY	30 1822 – The Denmark Vesey "conspiracy" is uncovered and curtailed by authorities in Charleston, SC	31			

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HONORABLE REV. CLEMENTA PINCKNEY

Pastor and Senator

The Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney, 41, lived much of his life in Ridgeland, South Carolina, but he left a positive impact as a Pastor and Statesman far beyond rural Jasper County. As Pastor, he served thousands of parishioners in many South Carolina churches, and he was a leading member of the South Carolina Senate.

Born into a family with a legacy of church leadership and civil rights activism, Pinckney graduated magna cum laude from Allen University, where he was elected president of the freshman class, senior class, and student body. He was named one of America's top college students by Ebony Magazine and received a Princeton University Woodrow Wilson Summer Research Fellowship in the fields of public policy and international affairs. He received a graduate fellowship to the University of South Carolina, where he earned a master's in public administration.

At age 13, Pinckney felt called to become a pastor and was ordained at age 18. After completing his studies at Allen and USC, he earned a Master of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. He led churches across the state before becoming the senior pastor at Emanuel AME Church in 2010. At the time of his death, he was pursuing a doctorate at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., which was awarded posthumously.

Pinckney was the youngest African American ever elected to the South Carolina General Assembly, becoming a State Representative at 23 and a Senator at 27. He became known for quietly leading by example, advocating for healthcare and education issues and passionately opposing gun violence.

A gifted orator, Pinckney was a humble public servant with a calm demeanor, a devoted husband to his wife, Jennifer, and loving father to his daughters, Eliana and Malana. President Obama eulogized Pinckney at his funeral, attended By Vice President Joe Biden, Gov. Nikki Haley and numerous dignitaries and church leaders.



Photo courtesy of The State

JUNE

SOUTH CAROLINA

AFRICAN AMERICAN

HISTORY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 <small>1963 – Rev. I. DeQuincey Newman announces that the NAACP will stage massive demonstrations in eight S.C. cities unless negotiations begin to "solve racial differences"</small>	6 <small>1939 – Marian Wright Edelman, the first African American woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar and founder of the Children Defense Fund, was born in Bennettsville, SC</small>	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 <small>1910 – William D. Crum, a S.C. physician is appointed minister to Liberia</small>	14 FLAG DAY	15	16	17
18 FATHER'S DAY	19 <small>1963 – Mayor Lester Bates announces his belief that there is no need for a bi-racial committee to negotiate integration process in public schools</small>	20	21 SUMMER BEGINS <small>1832 – Joseph Hayne Rainey was born into slavery in Georgetown, SC. Rainey was the first African American to serve in the United States House of Representatives, the second African American to serve in Congress, the first African American presiding officer of the US House of Representatives</small>	22 <small>1964 – The Supreme court reverses the convictions of Simon Boule, Tallmadge Neal and Charles Barr and two others in trespassing cases</small>	23 <small>1951 – SC District Court ruled in favor of the Clarendon County School board that segregation is inequality</small>	24 <small>1954 – Sarah Mae Flemming, a young African American domestic worker was hit by a Columbia bus driver for sitting in the front and ejected from the bus on the corner of Main and Washington Streets</small>
25	26	27	28	29 <small>1937 – James Roland Clark, M.D., recognized as an expert on sickle cell anemia and one of the founders of the Columbia Area Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation (CASCFA) was born in Columbia, SC</small>	30	

Learn more about the people featured in this calendar at www.scafricanamerican.com.

TYWANZA KIBWE DIOP SANDERS

Poet and Musician

Tywanza Sanders, 26, was a young, vibrant man with many talents and interests who was willing to give his life for another.

Born in Charleston, “Wanza” was known for his broad, ready smile and positive outlook on life.

Sanders graduated from James Island Charter High School in 2006, where he was a member of the Trojan football team, Future Business Leaders of America and other student organizations. Sanders also filmed home basketball games for the school’s broadcast journalism news team. After high school, he earned a degree in business administration from Allen University, where he was known as a serious student committed to his education. While at Allen, he balanced coursework, part-time jobs and membership in student organizations like the National Association of Black Accountants and the National Black MBA Association.

Upon graduation, Sanders returned to Charleston and, while holding two jobs, began making plans to attend graduate school. In his spare time, he enjoyed writing rap lyrics and poetry and participated in poetry slams. At the time of his death, he was in the process of publishing his own book of poetry titled “Tragedy,” addressing themes of violence, poverty and inequality. Sanders played the keyboard and other instruments and enjoyed skateboarding and acting.

When Sanders wasn’t studying or working, he could often be found at Emanuel AME Church studying the Bible with his tight-knit community of family and friends.

Sanders’ final act was one of selfless heroism. As gunshots rang out at Emanuel Church, he stepped in front of his great aunt, Susie Jackson, giving his life in an attempt to save hers. Fittingly, Sanders’ and Jackson’s lives were celebrated in a joint funeral, which was attended by hundreds of mourners including Gov. Nikki Haley.



Photo courtesy of The State

JULY

SOUTH CAROLINA

AFRICAN AMERICAN

HISTORY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 1910 – Civil Rights leader and businessman, Esau Jenkins, was born on Johns Island, SC	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 1947 – Camden, SC native Larry Doby was signed to the Cleveland Indians, becoming the first African American to play in the American League and the first African American to hit a home run in an All-Star game	6 1868 – The South Carolina House became the first and only legislature to have a black majority, 87 blacks to 40 whites	7	8
9	10 1963 – In the case of Brown vs. SC Forestry Commission, Judge Martin orders all state parks to desegregate within 60 days. Instead, the South Carolina Forestry Commission closed all state parks 1875 – Mary McLeod Bethune is born in Mayesville, SC	11	12	13	14 1929 – Dr. Noble P. Cooper, the first African American accepted into the S.C. Dental Association was born in Columbia, SC	15
16	17	18	19	20 1966 – South Carolina state parks are reopened as fully integrated facilities after closed by the South Caroling Forestry Commission in response to Brown vs. Forestry Commission	21 1940 – Congressman James Clyburn was born in Sumter, SC 1949 – Luther J. Battiste III was born in Orangeburg, SC. He and his partners formed the first racially integrated law firm at the partner level in South Carolina and in 1983 he was elected as one of the first two African Americans to Columbia City Council	22
23	24	25 1963 – Robert Anderson applies as a transfer student to the University of South Carolina	26	27 1907 – Anna May Manigault-Hurley, operator of Manigault-Hurley Funeral Home, Inc., one of the biggest black owned businesses in the state, was born in Columbia, SC	28	29 1963 – The University of South Carolina Board of Trustees announces it will comply with the order to desegregate
30	31					

Learn more about the people featured in this calendar at www.scafricanamerican.com.

REV. DANIEL L. SIMMONS, SR.

Pastor, Community Leader and Army Veteran

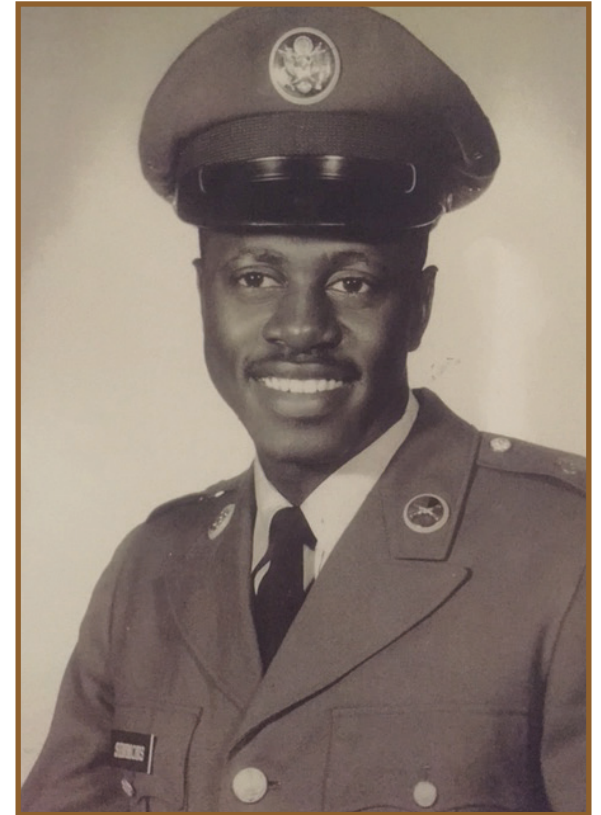
The Reverend Daniel Simmons, Sr. was a gentleman, a leader, an avid proponent of education and a servant of Christ. A fourth generation preacher who worked diligently to expand the AME Church, he was affectionately recognized as the spiritual heart of the Seventh Episcopal District, earning him the name “Super Simmons from the Super Seventh.”

Simmons and his wife Annie Graham Simmons had two children, Daniel L. Simmons, Jr. and Rose Ann Simmons. He earned a B.A. in Education Administration from Allen University in Columbia, SC, a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of South Carolina and a Master of Divinity with a concentration in Leadership and Theology from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia.

Simmons was Senior Pastor at eight different AME Churches over thirty years and dedicated his life to teaching the truth of God's Word. He wanted everyone to experience a vibrant relationship with Christ and walk in God's will. Simmons initiated new programs and outreach ministries, enhancing the communities he served as pastor. At Greater Zion AME Church in Awendaw, SC, he launched the first Hot Meal Program, open to all citizens. After serving his country honorably in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, Simmons was dually employed by the South Carolina Department of Corrections as a teacher and a counselor. Simmons also worked with Greyhound Bus Company as one of the first black drivers hired during the early 1970's, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Department of Veterans Affairs and the Vocational Rehabilitation Center.

After retiring in 2013, he was asked by Rev. Clementa Pinckney to join the ministerial staff of Mother Emanuel Church, where he continued to teach and help develop the church's leadership team. Simmons was a member of several organizations, including Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and Capital City Lodge No. 47.

Simmons stressed the importance of education to his children, grandchildren and other young people. Simmons loved jazz music and the visual arts. He was a man of great intelligence, determination and responsibility, qualities that enabled him to leave a legacy of faith and compassion.



SOUTH CAROLINA

AFRICAN AMERICAN

AUGUST

HISTORY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1894 – Benjamin Elijah Mays, educator, social activist, mentor to Dr. King, and the president of Morehouse College was born in Epworth, SC 1963 – The "Committee of 85" in Columbia votes to urge the city council to adopt a non-discriminatory hiring policy	2	3 1921 – South Carolina's first African American federal judge, Judge Matthew J. Perry, was born in Columbia, SC	4 1810 – Robert Purvis, the "President of the Underground Railroad", was born in Charleston, SC	5
6	7	8 1955 – Jonathan Green one of the most important painters of the southern experience was born in Gardens Corner, SC	9	10	11 1965 – Tony Award winner and Academy Award nominated actress Viola Davis was born in St. Matthews, SC	12 1922 – One of the first African American models in the United States, Ophelia DeVore-Mitchell was born in Edgefield, SC 1963 – Leading Columbia merchants announce removal of segregation signs from fountains, restrooms, and dressing rooms
13	14 1883 – Ernest Everett Just, scientist, was born in Charleston, SC	15	16	17 1849 – Archibald Grimke, one of the first African Americans to attend Harvard Law School was born near Charleston, SC	18 1939 – Maxine Brown, R&B and soul singer was born in Kingstree, S	19 NAT'L AVIATION DAY
20	21 SENIOR CITIZENS DAY	22	23	24	25 1927 – Althea Gibson, first black Wimbledon champion was born in Clarendon County, SC	26 WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY
27 1963 – A bomb explodes near University of South Carolina student Henri Monteith's home	28 1963 – Sumter NAACP chairman James T. McCain serves as a key organizer for the March on Washington	29	30	31 1885 – Edwin DuBose Heyward, author of <i>Porgy</i> was born in Charleston, SC		

Learn more about the people featured in this calendar at www.scafricanamerican.com.

MYRA SINGLETON THOMPSON

Preacher, Teacher and Counselor

Charleston native Myra Singleton Quarles Thompson joined Mother Emanuel AME Church as a young child, beginning a lifetime of devotion to the church and its members. Her deep faith and love for the church's members led her to study to become a minister, and just before her death, her preaching certificate was renewed.

One of 16 children, Thompson attended Livingstone College where she was a member of the marching band. She later transferred to Benedict College where she earned a BA degree in English Education and became a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She furthered her education at the Citadel Military College of Charleston where she earned the degree of Master of Education in Reading and a second degree of Master of Education in School Counseling. Thompson was a retired Charleston County school counselor and teacher where she taught at Brentwood Middle School in North Charleston for many years.

She was married to the Rev. Anthony B. Thompson, Vicar of Holy Trinity Reformed Episcopal Church in Charleston. Her two children, Kevin Singleton and Denise Quarles, and two grandchildren were her pride and joy.

Thompson was widely known among her fellow church members for her passionate devotion to the maintenance of the church in which she grew up. As a long-standing member of Mother Emanuel's property committee, Thompson took a personal interest in caring for the church facilities. From replacing light bulbs in sanctuary chandeliers, to helping with the renovation of Mother Emanuel's parsonage, Thompson was involved in helping ensure that Mother Emanuel's physical condition reflected the spiritual condition of members.

Thompson's funeral service was held at Mother Emanuel Church. Hundreds of people wrapped around the Calhoun St. block and crowded the sanctuary to pay their respects to the family. Among those in attendance were U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, Gov. Nikki Haley, Charleston Mayor Joe Riley, and Dr. David A. Swinton, President of Benedict College.



SOUTH CAROLINA

AFRICAN AMERICAN

SEPTEMBER

HISTORY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 1869 – Anna DeCosta Banks, RN, a pioneer in the nursing profession was born in Charleston, SC
3 1865 – U.S. Army commander in South Carolina ordered Freedmen's Bureau to stop seizing abandoned land	4 LABOR DAY	5	6	7	8 1957 – Althea Gibson became the first African American athlete to win a U.S. national tennis championship	9 1739 – Stono Rebellion occurs in South Carolina. It is considered the largest slave rebellion on North American soil that took place prior to the American Revolution 1963 – Columbia experiences its first protest marches in over a year, as 23 blacks are arrested during a demonstration along Main Street. The next day, 60 blacks march along the same street but avoid arrest
10 GRANDPARENT'S DAY	11 PATRIOT DAY 1963 – Henri Monteith, James Solomon, and Robert Anderson enroll at the University of South Carolina becoming the first African Americans to enroll since Reconstruction	12 1963 – As protests continue in Columbia, the "Committee of 85" adopts a resolution calling on motel, hotel, and theater owners to desegregate	13	14	15	16
17 1917 – Willis H. Crosby, the first black disk jockey (DJ) in the upstate of South Carolina was born in Anderson County, SC	18 CONSTITUTION DAY	19	20 ROSH HASHANAH BEGINS	21	22 FALL BEGINS ROSH HASHANAH ENDS 1979 – Matthew Perry becomes the first African American federal judge in South Carolina	23
24	25	26	27 1935 – Mamie "Peanut" Johnson, the only woman to pitch for Negro Major League was born in Ridgeway, SC	28	29 YOM KIPPUR	30

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SURVIVORS

Among the victims of the Emanuel AME Church shooting are five survivors – three adults and two children who have shown incredible grace in becoming examples of powerful forgiveness for Charleston and the nation.

As an example, Polly Sheppard, a retired nurse and Emanuel AME Church trustee, was participating in the Bible study the night of the tragedy. Displaying tremendous grace throughout, she stated in an interview, “... And (God) left us here to do something, be a light to someone else.”*

Jennifer Pinckney, wife of the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, and their daughter Malana, who was 6 years old at the time of the shooting, were in the pastor’s study adjacent to the hall and room where the shooting took place. Jennifer Pinckney serves on the Women’s Coalition for Common Sense, which focuses on engaging women leaders in preventing gun violence. She is intent on carrying out her husband’s legacy of supporting public education and healthcare access through The Honorable Reverend Clementa C. Pinckney Foundation, which she founded.



Polly Sheppard



Jennifer Pinckney

*<http://time.com/4372169/charleston-shooting-anniversary-survivors/?iid=sr-link1>

SOUTH CAROLINA

AFRICAN AMERICAN

OCTOBER

HISTORY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 1873 – Henry E. Hayne, the black Republican Secretary of State of South Carolina, registered as a student in the medical department of the University and was the first official matriculation of an African American student in the University of South Carolina
8 1941 – Civil rights leader, Jesse Jackson, is born in Greenville, SC	9 COLUMBUS DAY	10	11 1975 – Kimberly Clarice Aiken, the first African American Miss America from South Carolina and Human Rights Advocate was born in Columbia, SC	12	13	14 1963 – South Carolina officially “runs out of courts” as the U.S. Supreme Court refuses to hear Clemson University’s appeal
15 1960 – Students from Allen University & Benedict College formed the Student Conference for Human Rights in order to facilitate cross-campus & city-wide organizing 1967 – Winnsboro, SC native Sergeant First Class Webster Anderson of the 101st Airborne Division successfully defends his artillery position from a sustained enemy attack. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor	16	17 1871 – President Grant suspended the writ of habeas corpus and declared martial law in nine South Carolina counties affected by Ku Klux Klan activities	18	19	20	21 1917 – John Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie was born in Cheraw, SC
22	23	24 UNITED NATIONS DAY	25	26 1868 – B.F. Randolph, State Senator and Chairman of the State Republican Party, was assassinated in daylight at Hodges Depot in Abbeville, SC	27	28
29	30	31 HALLOWEEN				

EMANUEL A.M.E. CHURCH

Established in 1816, the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church is the oldest AME church in the Deep South and a historic symbol of faith, community building, and resistance to slavery and racism.

Rev. Morris Brown, one of the first ordained pastors of the AME denomination and its second Bishop, organized Black members of Charleston's Methodist Church to leave that denomination due to racial discrimination. The establishment of *Mother Emanuel*, then known as Hampstead Church, and two other AME churches changed the city's social and religious landscapes. Within two years, more than three-quarters of Black Methodists in Charleston, roughly 4,000 people, had left their segregated churches to join the AME church due to its emphasis on education, racial uplift and self-determination.

After the Civil War, Robert Vesey, son of one of the church's founders, Denmark Vesey, designed a wooden, two-story church at the present site to replace the original facility which had been burned. Christened "Emanuel," meaning "God is with us," the building was badly damaged by the August 31, 1886 earthquake. The existing Gothic Revival-style church, built in 1891, retains the original altar, communion rail, pews and light fixtures.

Emanuel's legacy of social activism continued to grow throughout the 20th century as the church welcomed many local and national civil rights leaders, including Booker T. Washington, Septima P. Clark, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. I. DeQuincey Newman. Coretta Scott King and Andrew Young led Black nurses and hospital workers in a march from the church steps during a labor strike in 1969. As a state senator and pastor, the late Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney was a vocal advocate for the poor.

During his eulogy of Rev. Pinckney, President Barack Obama described Black churches as bunkers for foot soldiers in freedom struggles and "places where children are loved and fed and kept out of harm's way, and told that they are beautiful and smart—and taught that they matter." There is no better example of that than *Mother Emanuel*.



SOUTH CAROLINA

AFRICAN AMERICAN

NOVEMBER

HISTORY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ALL SAINTS' DAY	2	3 1896 – South Carolina State College (now known as South Carolina State University) is established 1970 – Herbert Fielding, James Felder, & I.S. Leevy Johnson elected to the S.C. House of Representatives as first African Americans since reconstruction 1998 – South Carolina removed its anti-miscegenation law	4
5 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS 1974 – Juanita Goggins of Rock Hill, SC becomes the first black woman elected to the State Legislature	6 1992 – Congressman James Clyburn becomes the first black US Representative elected to office since Reconstruction	7 ELECTION DAY	8 1983 – I. DeQuincey Newman because first African American elected to S. C. Senate since Reconstruction	9	10 1939 – 29 representatives from SC branches met in the library at Benedict College and founded the South Carolina NAACP State conference of branches	11 VETERANS' DAY
12	13	14	15	16 1873 – Richard T. Greener, first Black graduate of Harvard University, is named professor of Metaphysics at the University of South Carolina	17	18 1963 – The annual meeting of South Carolina Council on Human Relations is held in the newly desegregated Downtowner Hotel in Columbia
19	20	21	22	23 THANKSGIVING	24 BLACK FRIDAY 1874 – Robert B. Elliott is elected Speaker of the lower house of the South Carolina legislature during Reconstruction	25
26 1872 – The South Carolina General Assembly met in Columbia and names four blacks to the seven-man governing board of the University of South Carolina: Samuel J. Lee, J.A. Bowley, Stephen A. Swails and W.R. Jervey	27 CYBER MONDAY	28	29	30		

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MOVING FORWARD

In the aftermath of the shootings, Mother Emanuel received a tremendous outpouring of love and support and sympathy. People from around the world visited to offer condolences, hold prayer vigils and place letters, cards and flowers at the church.

Nadine Collier, daughter of Ethel Lance, one of the nine victims, captured the community's response and the loving spirit of Mother Emanuel in three powerful words. "I forgive you," she told the shooter during a court hearing. "You took something very precious from me, . . . but I forgive you."

On June 26, 2015, President Barack Obama, in his eulogy of the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, said the attack on Mother Emanuel was more than a singular moment of incivility, but rather marked a new chapter in the history of American racism. Choking back tears, he called for Americans to avoid slipping into a "comfortable silence" that eases tension, in favor of direct action in pursuit of justice.

In the weeks following, many people spoke out and organized protests against the white supremacist ideologies and symbols that apparently motivated the perpetrator. On July 10, 2015, at the urging of state and national leaders, and following heated debate within the General Assembly, the Confederate flag was removed from the South Carolina Statehouse grounds in Columbia, coming down to shouts and tears from the watching crowd. The events echoed across the country as activists called for the removal of other Confederate monuments and new policies to address issues such as public school segregation, affordable housing, and poverty.

One year later South Carolinians statewide still mourn but remain hopeful that change is happening as the Emanuel congregation strives to be at the forefront of efforts to bring healing and live out the challenge posed by a banner which hung outside the church: "Let us be the example of love that conquers evil."



SOUTH CAROLINA

AFRICAN AMERICAN

DECEMBER

HISTORY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 WORLD AIDS DAY	2
3	4	5 1899 – Modjeska Monteith Simkins, known as the "matriarch of civil rights activists" in South Carolina was born in Columbia, SC 1902 – Annie Green Nelson, South Carolina's first known, published, female African American author, was born in Darlington County, SC 1935 – Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, founded National Council of Negro Women	6 1870 – Joseph H. Rainey, first Black in the South Carolina House of Representatives is sworn in	7 PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY 1950 – Casey Manning, the first African American member of the University of South Carolina's basketball team was born in Dillon, SC	8	9
10 HUMAN RIGHTS DAY	11	12 HANUKKAH BEGINS 1963 – Five movie theaters in Columbia agree to admit one black couple each	13 1962 – The Edwards vs. SC trial begins which was in reaction to 187 petitioners consisted of African American high school and college students who peacefully assembled at the Zion Baptist Church in Columbia, SC in March 1961. The students marched in separate groups of roughly 15 to South Carolina State House grounds to peacefully express their grievances regarding civil rights of African Americans	14	15	16
17	18 1959 – South Carolina was declared an "independent commonwealth." BLACKS IN CONFEDERACY: Confederacy was the first to recognize that Blacks were major factors in the war conference of branches	19	20 HANUKKAH ENDS 1860 – South Carolina seceded from the Union becoming the first state to secede 1963 – Rev. I. DeQuincey Newman announces more demonstrations will be held despite the objections from the "Committee of 85"	21 WINTER SOLSTICE 1865 – South Carolina issues one of the first set of black codes "to regulate the relations of persons of color". Among the codes included those of illegal interracial marriages, master apprentice relations and service contracts	22	23 1863 – Robert Blake, powder boy aboard the USS Marblehead, was the first Black awarded the Naval Medal of Honor "for conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity at the risk of his own life" in a battle that occurred off the coast of South Carolina on this day
24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 1971 – Rev. Jesse Jackson organized Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity)	26 KWANZAA BEGINS	27	28	29	30
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE						



United in caring

In the weeks following the shootings, students at Porter-Gaud School in Charleston painted this piece of art as a gift for the congregation of Emanuel AME Church. It now hangs in the Pastor's Study.

AT&T salutes all those South Carolinians who responded to the tragedy with a spirit of grace, love and unity.

